

THE VINDICATION and DECLARATION of the Scots Nation, &c.

AN Asperſion being caſt upon our Actions, and a Sandall raiſed againſt our Proceedings, We conclude our ſelves engaged to wipe off the one, and beat downe the other by this ſhort *Vindication*.

It is not unknown to the world, that at *Fiſt* we were Invited to aſſiſt the Kingdome of *England* upon a *Solemne Agreement*, as well to make the late *King Glorious*, as to preſerve to Lawfull Rights, and Liberties of the Subjects. The onely means to effect this, was propounded the forcible Reſcuing the King from His *Evill*, and bringing Him back to His *Great Council*, whom we were informed He had [wilfully, and for no cauſe given by them] deſerted: [*Though now we are fully ſatisfied of the contrary.*]

This ſpecious pretence involved us in that Engagement: in order to the effecting whereof, our Army in 1644. Marched into *England*: The ſucceſſe which their Deſigne found thereby, we need not mention; it being acknowledged at large by their own Papers.

Upon the Account alſo, after the Kings comming into our Army, we treated with them, and upon their large proteſtations of aſſing nothing contrary to the *fiſt agreement*, [of the faithfull performance whereof we alone were not fruſtrated] we left his Maſteſty to be attended on by the *Commiſſioners*, of both Houſes of the Then Parliament of *England*, expecting thenceforth a ſpeedy performance of theirs and our Agreement, but how our expectation was therein deceived we leave it to their owne laſt proceedings to determine and declare.

After this, being informed how the Army of *ſcattaries* behaved themſelves towards the King, we held our ſelves obliged by our ſaid *Solemne Engagement* to endeavour the Redreſſe of his Maſteſties ſad condition; and to that end by conſent of Parliament we raiſed an Army in 1648. and gave them Order to March into *England*: which was accordingly performed.

Upon their March we were informed of a *Treaty* to be between his then Maſteſty and his two Houſes, and were alſo poſſeſſed with this ſuggeſtion, that under the countenance of that our engagement, the *Malignant party* had ſtrengthened themſelves to hinder the happy effects of the ſaid *Treaty*: of which we being unwilling to be accounted the abſtructers, we ſent Orders to our Gene-

rall to stay his further March, and forbear any engagement against the *Eng-
lish*, till we were truly satisfied what effect the said *Treaty* would produce.

Our Generall accordingly made an Hault, not doubting but that the *Eng-
lish* had done the same. But their Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* taking ad-
vantage of his security, unexpectedly fell into our Generalls quarters [who
suspected no such treacherous fruits of a pretended *Treaty*, and had no order to
engasse against them] and before our Generall was or could be Resolved
what to doe, prosecuted his Designe with so hot and eager a pursuite, that
by the advantage he had got by that his treacherous first onset, he so dispersed
our whole Army, that it was no Labour for him totally to destroy the
same, or have them all at his Mercy [which in the conclusion proved but cru-
elty, wnesse our Generall himselfe whom they murdered in London after they had
given him quarter.]

By this defeat he gained a free passage with his Army without opposition,
to March against this Kingdome. To prevent this, those of us who had pro-
tested against that Engagement, and to their utmost power opposed it in
Armes [which they never laid downe, untill the *Garrisons* of *BERWICK*
and *Carlisle* were restored to the Kingdome of England] These of us [we
say] by a letter from the House of Commons to the Generall Assembly of this
Kirk of the third of August 1648. intimating with what hopefull successe the
Treaty was like to go on) were invited to a *Treaty* with the said Lieut. Generall
Cromwell authorized thereunto by both Houses of Parliament: And this was
accepted on both Parts.

At the meeting upon the 5. of October following Lieut. Generall *Cromwell* in
the Name of the Parliament of England, did represent to the Committee of Es-
tates of this Kingdome, the wrongs and injuries committed against the Kingdome
of England in that Engagement, and thereupon did demand by way of satisfaction,
that they would give assurance in the name of the Kingdome of Scotland, not to
admit, or suffer any who have been Active in, or consenting to that Engagement,
to be employed in any Publique place, or Trust whatsoever; which [the exigen-
cies of our affaires, as then necessitating us thereto] was not onely granted,
and afterwards confirmed in Parliament, but also publicly disclaimed, be-
cause we did expect a happy period of the above-mentioned *Treaty* be-
tween His Majesty, and His two Houses: but what effect that did produce
is apparent to the whole world in Generall, and to this Kingdome particu-
larly, who are concerned therein more especially; for thereby they con-
clude, themselves free from whatsoever Relation, or mutuall obligation to
the Kingdome of England, and bound equally by the Law of God, Nations,
and Common Right to declare as followeth.

The DECLARATION of, &c.

Since the hideous, and unparallel'd proceedings of the Sectaries of *England*, especially of the Army [in reference to Religion, to the Law, to the protesting against, and disannulling all the proceedings of the Treaty, to the Freedome of both Houses, (one being declared uselesse, and many Members of the other kept away by force, and the rest under the power of the Sword) to the taking away of the *Kings Life*, and the changing the very *Fundamentall Government of that Kingdome*] since their proceedings [we say] have manifested themselves contrary, and Diametrically opposit to all bonds of Religion, or but Morall Honesty, Loyalty to the King, mutuall amity and Friendship betwixt the two Kingdomes, the Solemne League and Covenant, yea, and their own *Protestations, Declarations, Professions, and Remonstrances*.

And since by such proceedings it is apparent, that there hath been in *England* a back sliding, and departure from those Grounds and Principles wherein the two Kingdomes were engaged: we held our selves bound equally by the Law of God and Nations: to protest against them, and to address our selves according to the Law of this Kingdome, to the Heire apparent of this Crown and Scepter, whom we have not onely acknowledged for our King, and with all readinesse, unanimity, alacrity, and solemnity proclaimed His Majesty by the name of *CHARLES the SECOND, of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, &c.* But also, [having now by his last *Expreffe* received such full satisfaction as both the Generall Assembly of the Kirk, and Grand Committee of Estates did desire, or could be expected, doe **DECLARE** to the whole world, that we will receive His Majesty [when he shall think fit to Honour us with, and encourage us by His Royall presence] with all cheerfullnesse, and most willingly render unto Him that faithfull subjection, and dutifull obedience which can be expected from Loyall Subjects to so *Gracious a King*, who, by granting so much, hath so farre endeared *This Nation*, That we further **DECLARE**,

That we wil contribute our utmost endeavours according to the Duty of Faithfull and Loyall Subjects, to settle his Majesty in the peaceable Possession of the Government of his Kingdome of *England*, and other his Majesties Dominions, according to his Majesties undoubted right of Succession, and with all their Lives, Estates, Power, and Strength, assist his Majesty in bringing to Justice the Actors and Abettors in that **HORRID and UNPARALLELED MURDER** of his Majesties *Royall Father*, by which we doubt not but fully both to satisfie the whole world how much we did and still do

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detest and abominate the very designe thereof, and also give a sufficient testimony of the integrity of intentions towards MONARCHICALL Government and the continuance thereof in his Majesties Person and Posterity, and of our utter detestation of the unpardonable practices of those *Seizures at Westminister, Derby House,* and in the *Army*, who Designe the Ruine of his Majesty and the Subversion of the ancient and Fundamentall Lawes and Government of all his Three Kingdomes, whom therefore we Resolve to our utmost hazard of our Lives, and Estates, to oppose: And to that end doe further
DECLARE,

That we wil not admit of any *Treaty* with any of his Majesties Enemies (without his consent nor) till all the Late proceedings in *England* since the ending of the *Treaty*, between his late barbarously Murdered Majesty and his then Two Houses of Parliament, be disclaimed and disavowed, and both Houses there be permitted to sit in Freedome and safety, that so addresses may without feare and danger of the Subjects lives, be made unto them concerning all matters of just complaint.

And from these Resolutions and Declarations in the last place, as we **DECLARE**, that as no alteration or revolution of affairs can absolve us, so we trust in God that no success, whether good or bad, shall be able to divert us from that course and means by which we have joyntly and unanimously consented to assist his Majesty according to this our present *Declaration*, and will persue with all alacrity till we have settled his Majesty according to his owne Hearts desire, attained the wished ends of the long continued Troubles of his Three Kingdomes, and put a period to those unnaturall Warres and divisions which have so long wasted all his Dominions; That so at Length (if God be so pleased) we may live a comfortable and quiet life under the shadow of so hopefull and Gracious a Kings prosperous and happy Government. Which God of his infinite Mercy grant in his good time That so the Throne of *Charles the Second* may be established in righteousness, peace and Happinesse.

Vivat, Vincat, Floreat CAROLUS Secundus.

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